

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A fuel cell stack comprising:

a first fuel cell assembly and a second fuel cell assembly electrically coupled together, each ~~first and second~~ fuel cell assembly comprising:

~~at least one~~ a hollow manifold comprising a top wall and a bottom wall, ~~each of the top and bottom walls~~ said hollow manifold including a sealed fuel passage for allowing fuel to enter and exit ~~the at least one~~ said hollow manifold; and

a fuel cell comprising an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte disposed there between, a portion of said fuel cell disposed on one of said top and bottom walls of said hollow manifold forming a side wall in intimate contact with said fuel cell such that said fuel cell is coplanar with ~~between said at least one~~ said hollow manifold;

wherein one of the top and bottom walls of said ~~at least one~~ hollow manifold extending between said fuel cell and said sealed fuel passage includes a compliant structure to accommodate ~~strain therebetween~~ thermal expansion of said fuel cell in the same plane as said hollow manifold.

20. (Original) The fuel cell stack accordingly to claim 19 further comprising a cathode flow channel coupled to said at least one hollow manifold of said first fuel cell assembly and said second fuel cell assembly, said cathode flow channel configured for directing an oxidant between said first fuel cell assembly and said second fuel cell assembly.

21. (Original) The fuel cell stack in accordance with claim 19, wherein said at least one hollow manifold for said first fuel cell assembly and said second fuel cell assembly is substantially rectangular.

22. (Original) The fuel cell stack in accordance with claim 19, wherein said at least one hollow manifold of said first fuel cell assembly and said second fuel cell assembly further comprises an electrically conductive material.

23. (Original) The fuel cell stack according to claim 19, wherein said fuel cell is selected from the group consisting of solid oxide fuel cell, proton exchange membrane fuel cell, molten carbonate fuel cell, phosphoric acid fuel cell, alkaline fuel cell, direct methanol fuel cell, regenerative fuel cell, zinc air fuel cell, and protonic ceramic fuel cell.

24. (Original) The fuel cell stack according to claim 19, wherein said fuel cell comprises a solid oxide fuel cell.

25. (Original) The fuel stack according to claim 19, wherein said strain is developed due to thermal expansion.

26. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell stack according to claim 19, wherein thermal coefficients of expansion of said fuel cell and said top and bottom walls are different.

27-29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) The fuel cell stack according to claim 19, wherein said fuel cell stack comprises materials of different thermal coefficients of expansion.

31. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell stack according to claim 19, wherein said fuel cell comprises a ceramic material and each of said top wall and said bottom wall comprises a metal.

32. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell stack according to claim 19, wherein each of said top wall and said bottom wall are interconnects.

33. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell stack according to claim 19, wherein each of said top wall and said bottom wall of the hollow manifold acts as an anode interconnect.

34. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell stack according to claim 19, wherein the compliant structure is located adjacent to said fuel cell and said sealed passage.

35. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell stack according to claim 19, wherein the compliant structure comprises a corrugated structure.

36-37. (Canceled)